

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.(original) A method for producing a refractory composite material including the steps of infiltration of a porous carbide work-piece by a metal resulting in preparation of an intermediate body, characterized in that the intermediate body is additionally treated in a melt of another metal at temperature exceeding the melting point of the metallic phase of the intermediate body.

2.(original) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the intermediate body is treated in a melt so that the metal from the melt is uniformly distributed in the refractory composite material.

3.(original) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the intermediate body is treated in a melt so that the metal from the melt is nonuniformly distributed in the refractory composite material.

4.(currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, characterized in that as said porous carbide work-piece a work-piece is used prepared by pressing and sintering from carbide powders.

5.(currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, characterized in that a porous carbide work-piece is produced by pressing of powders of carbide forming elements or their mixtures, with subsequent treatment in a medium of

hydrocarbons at a temperature exceeding their decomposition temperature and heat treatment at temperature 1200-1800 C.

6.(currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1-5~~
claim 1, characterized in that a porous workpiece is used with porosity 30-60 % vol.

7.(currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1-6~~
claim 1, characterized in that a porous workpiece is used with a porosity uniformly distributed in volume.

8.(currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1-6~~
claim 1, characterized in that a porous carbide work-piece is used with a porosity non-uniformly distributed in volume.

9.(currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1-8~~
claim 1, characterized in that said porous carbide work-piece is infiltrated by dipping in a melt of metal or melting of a weighed sample of metal on its surface.

10.(currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 1-9~~
claim 1, characterized in that before treatment the intermediate body is heated up to a temperature exceeding the melting point of a metal phase of the intermediate body.